

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Upper Mississippi River – Illinois Waterway (UMR-IWW) System Navigation Study, Governors' Liaison Committee (GLC) Meeting

1. The subject meeting was held at the Sheraton West Port Hotel, Lakeside Chalet, 191 West Port Plaza, St. Louis, Missouri, on 13 November 2001. Mr. Steve Cobb, Chief of the Planning and Programs Management Division of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Mississippi Valley Division (CEMVD) chaired the meeting. The 6 August 2001 GLC meeting minutes were approved.
2. Enclosed are the meeting agenda (Enclosure 1); a list of meeting attendees (Enclosure 2); a copy of the Power Point Presentation (Enclosure 3); and the Draft Plan of Action - Restructured Upper Mississippi River System Navigation Feasibility Study (Enclosure 4).
3. Denny Lundberg reviewed the Management Structure (Power Point Slide 5) of the Restructured Navigation Study.

Dick Lambert felt that the GLC was comfortable with the existing structure and previous discussions were that it remain as it is. Terry Moe of Wisconsin wanted to know about how the Corps will interface with the GLC and the existing committees? More specifically, he questioned the GLC in the planning process of the restructured study and how the States will be included in this process.

Steve Cobb responded by referencing a conference call with the GLC and the discussion regarding the role of the GLC in the process. In that call, the GLC discussed their role as providing overview and comments on plans, documents, drafts, etc. and will utilize the GLC for input throughout the process.

This lead to another question regarding how the information would be fed back to the GLC. Steve Cobb indicated it would be both with meetings, including conference call, and in written form.

Tom Jackson asked at what point the Corps would ask for feedback. Steve Cobb indicated it would be early on while all the groups are reviewing the information. Denny Lundberg indicated that the Corps would get the States' input on the interim report prior to going to the Regional Group. Further discussion was held regarding whether the input from the States would come from both the GLC and the Navigation Environmental Coordinating Committee (NECC) and the Economics Coordinating Committee (ECC) and that they will need to utilize forms of communication other than just meetings. That may include use of e-mails and teleconferences. Existing information is being put out on the web site.

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A discussion took place regarding notification of the GLC meeting notice and minutes. A copy of the official GLC members and other interested parties was provided to the group. The States will verify their respective representatives and alternates and any additions or corrections should be provided to Laura Abney, CEMVR. Anyone wanting to be added to the Other Interested Parties mailing list should also provide the information to the Corps.

4. Dan McGuinness of the Audubon UMR Campaign gave a report on the Mississippi River Caucus Meeting. He indicated that the common theme of the group was the same as the concept of the Chief of Engineers, which is to look at the system as integrated and in a holistic manner. Each of the group was asked individually if they support navigation on the river and all answered yes. The question and answer period suggested that all are interested in moving forward.

5. Denny Lundberg reviewed the collaborative schedule (Power Point Slides 4, 6, & 7). A summary of the meetings are listed below:

- 9 October 2001 - ECC Meeting. Discussed plan of action and definitions of economic sustainability and scenario analysis development.
- 11-12 October 2001 - NECC meeting. Discussed in break out sessions, ecosystem sustainability, modification of navigation operation and maintenance (O&M), floodplain management, recreation, and future management.
- 29 October 2001 - MARC 2000 Meeting. Held panel discussions on economic progress. Chris Brescia gave a summary of the meeting.
- 31 October 2001 - ECC & NECC Conference Call. Continuation of dialogue of previous meetings.
- 6 November 2001 - Task Force Meeting. Update on scenario development.
- 8 November 2001 - Development of *Draft* Plan of Action.

Future meetings scheduled includes:

- 19 November 2001 - ECC/NECC Conference Calls.
- 7-29 November 2001 - ECC/NECC Meeting.
- January-February 2002 - Timeframe-tentative Public Meetings. The public will be notified by newsletter and on the web site.

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6. Denny Lundberg reviewed Power Point Slides 8-12 covering the Draft Plan of Action. This plan incorporates the NRC and Federal Task Force comments. The restart allows for the assessment of a need for a Comprehensive Plan. The Plan is scheduled to be completed in July 2002. The Plan formed four workgroup to sort out the problems and issues. They are navigation, O&M, floodplain management, and environmental. The intent is to integrate all agencies and interest.

Gary Clark of the Illinois DNR asked if recreation, sedimentation, and water quality are included in the study. Denny Lundberg indicated they are part of the overall issue, but not a main focus. Steve Cobb said that the sedimentation is a watershed problem and there is a possibility of making a recommendation for further study in this area.

Further products produced from the Draft Plan of Action are listed in Power Point Slides 13-14. Denny Lundberg indicated that Congress has high expectations from this report. There has been positive feedback from the Federal, State, and non-government organizations on the direction taken. The public is being informed via public meetings and a new web site that will be available in the near future.

Power Point Slide 15 explains the interconnect of the ongoing efforts on the UMR-IWW.

Terry Moe from Wisconsin had a series of questions. Clarification was given on the GLC mailing list. He questioned the National Economic Development (NED) plan and a statement made during a conference call with the Regional Group regarding getting authorization for construction. Steve Cobb responded by explaining that the interim report will proceed with scenario analysis and will not have an NED in this timeframe. The recommendation will likely be to continue the study, but he cannot speak for Congress and their intent. Mr. Moe also asked why the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, was not represented on the Regional Group. Steve Cobb was not sure what the original procedure was to naming the group, but sees no reason they cannot participate.

7. Denny Lundberg went through Power Point Slides 16-19 regarding scenario analysis. The scenarios will cover both economic and environmental scenarios. Terry Moe offered information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on pool planning efforts. Denny commented that these scenarios will be on a national level perspective rather than regional. Steve Cobb requested any State with experience in this arena to share its ideas with the Corps.

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Tom Jackson from the Iowa DOT asked what happens when the scenarios are done? Steve Cobb explained that likely 4-6 scenarios would be developed, with a range of situations regarding navigation and environmental issues. The study team will then look at a likelihood of occurrence. Some economic evaluation will still need to be completed. Also, there will ultimately be a series of choices that Congress and decision makers can react to.

Rich Manguno explained it is likely a matrix will be developed laying out the alternatives and the scenarios. An evaluation will be determined on how well each alternative performs in each scenario. Draft results of scenarios are scheduled for January 2002. Ken Barr indicated that the Environmental Impact Statement will still have an avoid and minimize component and possible O&M revisions.

A discussion was held regarding current planning guidance. Steve Cobb indicated that we would look at all areas and lay out problems that exist. Will also lay out what existing authorities are applicable and what authorities may be needed.

Sparks Company is developing the scenarios and will obtain experts in the environmental arena to assist in developing those scenarios. When the scenarios are drafted, input will be solicited from the NECC, ECC, Federal Task Force, and the GLC.

Comments from States:

Already incorporated into minutes.

Comments from Audience:

Heather Hampton-Knodle from the Upper Mississippi, Illinois & Missouri Rivers Association asked for confirmation that this Comprehensive Plan is different from the Water Resources Development Act 1999 (WRDA 99) Comprehensive Plan. Steve Cobb replied that they are different. Denny Lundberg indicated that the WRDA 99 Comprehensive Plan was funded this year and will look at the floodplain as a whole. The Navigation Study will integrate parts of the floodplain issues.

Holly Stoerker from Upper Mississippi River Basin Association offered an opinion of the difference between scenarios and alternatives. Steve Cobb agreed it is key to keep them separate.

Jeff Stein from the American Rivers requested information on the joint ECC/NECC meeting as soon as possible so they can be better prepared. Denny Lundberg indicated that it should go out the next day.

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Jon Duyvejonck from the USFWS asked about the set up of project management. He is on several of the subject areas and wanted to know how to divide his time. Denny Lundberg explained that team leaders have been identified for each component and they will work together to integrate the report.

Mark Beorkrem asked the status of the issue papers and when they will be on the agenda. Denny Lundberg indicated they will be on future agendas.

8. The next GLC meeting was tentatively set to correspond with the UMRBA and EMPCC meetings on February 26, 2002, at the Doubletree Hotel Minneapolis Airport at the Mall, 7901 – 24th Avenue South, Bloomington, Minnesota. If it becomes necessary, a meeting can be held sooner. With no other comments, Mr. Cobb thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting.

4 Encls

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